

CEISTEAN RIM FAIGHNEACHD.

All non-English responses should be accompanied by English translation of the text.

1. A bheil thu ag aontachadh gum bu chòir sgìrean ùra ainmeachadh airson Croitearachd?

Yes. There has always been a demand, now reported to be increasing, for crofts (and all forms of smallholding) from aspiring new entrants to this community and from members of long-established crofting families. New crofts should also help to slow or reverse the continuous concentration of agriculture and land management in fewer and larger hands, and arrest migration of local, economically active population from rural areas.

2. A bheil thu ag aontachadh gum bu chòir na sgìrean ùra a cho-thaobhadh ri feadhainn lomairt na Gaidhealtachd 's òran Eilean?

Mura bheil, Carson? Yes, but not only with those of H & E Enterprise.

Your proposed alignment, mostly round the edges of some of the Crofting Counties would be administratively convenient and not too radical for those interests who can barely tolerate the status quo i.e. who wish to see an end to crofting.

Your proposed alignment is a rather timid response to the aspirational population that occurs in probably every part of Scotland. I am sure there are people everywhere who wish to croft. I do not think crofting should be regarded as natural and suitable for only the Highlands & Islands landscape (varied as it is). ~~Or~~ For remote, steep, rocky, poorly drained and infertile places. Indeed crofts would be more productive, more viable, with fewer marketing / supply problems, outside the Highlands.

3. A bheil sgìre eile ann le tagradh nas làidire?

Ma tha, Carson?

Yes. I suggest Breadalbane, Rannoch and Atholl - all in Perthshire. These 3 areas are contiguous with the 2 Crofting Counties of Argyll and Inverness; they are, by your criteria if I may say it, very Highland landscapes - damp, steep, acidic, very short growing season, little arable/much hill; and have arrived at their condition today by the classic route of Highland economic and social history i.e. clearances, emigration, depopulation, large sheep farms, 'sporting' estates, retirement havens and housing which is unaffordable to the indigenous population. I understand that Perthshire was excluded from Napier's deliberations, by veto of the dukes of Atholl and Breadalbane. Time to redress historical injustice. Atholl in particular: the Atholl Estates have a virtual monopoly of cultivable land in the district, call in tenancies and rarely grant new ones, eliminate crofting, and merge holdings by 'adding field unto field, and house unto house'.

4. **A bheil thu ag aontachadh nach bu chòir a' Chòir-Cheannaich Coimhearsnachd Croitearachd a leudachadh gu sgìrean ùra?**

Yes. I hope this right will be extended to all 'new' crofts ie. those crofts having no 'community' basis in common croftings.

5. **Beachdan sam bith eile?**

Your proposals seem rather sanguine about the prospects of interest, goodwill and co-operation from land^{OWNERS}owners. These estates, usually very large, have been churning small tenants for generations.

About the last thing they would contemplate - or at least some I know - is releasing land in small parcels for use and residence by local people. This mean-spirited acquisition and subsequent exclusion policies are particularly popular among the new foreign lairds. Though I have no qualms about compulsory purchase or even confiscation I would be satisfied if the Government took the kind of policy it did in the 1920's for land re-distribution and smallholdings establishment.

6. **Dè a tha annad? (cuir diog)**

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Croitear | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Neach-gabhail-fearainn beag | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Neach-gabhail àiteachais | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Uachdaran | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Eile | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |